Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ World History (Honors)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading 5.6: Judgement in the The Protestant Reformation**

The political leader in charge of Martin Luther was Charles V. You see, even though we say Luther was “German”, he lived in the Holy Roman Empire. This was a large “empire” in the middle of Europe from 800-1806, and it included modern day Germany, and hence people of German descent.

So back to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. He was the political ruler in charge of Martin Luther’s nation, and he had to figure out how to handle Luther—this priest who the Church excommunicated in 1520 and who was shaking up the way people thought about their faiths and authority in general.

In 1521, Luther came before Charles V at the Diet of Worms. At the time, Charles V was only 21 years old and had been ruling for less than two years. Below is an excerpt from Charles V’s judgment at the Diet of Worms. Do you think Emperor Charles V made a wise decision here? Write your answer on the backside of this page.

**Emperor Charles V’s judgment at the Diet of Worms, April 1521**

My predecessors, the most Christian Emperors of German race, the Austrian archdukes, and dukes of Burgundy, were until death the truest sons of the Catholic Church, defending and extending their belief to the glory of God, the propagation of the faith, the salvation of their souls. They have left behind them the holy Catholic rites that I should live and die therein, and so until now with God’s aid I have lived as became a Christian Emperor. What my forefathers established at Constance and other Councils, it is my privilege to uphold. A single monk, led astray by private judgment, has set himself against the faith held by all Christians for a thousand years and more, and impudently concludes that all Christians up till now have erred. I have therefore resolved to stake upon this cause all my dominions, my friends, my body and my blood, my life and soul. For myself and you, sprung from the holy German nation, appointed by peculiar privilege defenders of the faith, it would be a grievous disgrace, an eternal stain upon ourselves and our posterity, if in this our day, not only heresy, but its very suspicion, were due to our neglect. After Luther's stiff-necked reply in my presence yesterday, I now repent that I have so long delayed proceedings against him and his false doctrines. I have now resolved never again, under any circumstances to hear him. Under protection of his safe-conduct he shall be escorted home, but forbidden to preach and to seduce men with his evil doctrines and incite them to rebellion. I warn you to give witness to your opinion as good Christians and in accordance with your vows.

Do you think Emperor Charles V made a wise decision here? Write your answer in the space below.